

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 EB-08

AID-05 TRSE-00 /107 W

-----115786 200805Z /10

P R 200600Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 215

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY SANA

USMISSION USUN

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, MILI, EGEN DJ SO, ET

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI CONCERN ABOUT SOMALI INTENTIONS

1. SUMMARY. PROSPECT OF SOMALI VICTORY IN OGADEN AND EVENTUAL CLOSURE TRADITIONAL MIGRATORY LIVESTOCK ROUTES IN ETHNIC ISSA ZONE BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND DIRE DAWA NOW CAUSING SERIOUS CONCERN IN DJIBOUTI LEADERSHIP. THE GOVERNMENT ASKS U.S. SUPPORT TO PREVENT ITS ISOLATION BY VICTORIOUS SOMALIS.

2. DURING ABSENCE OF PRESEIDENT GOULED AND PRIME MINISTER AHMED DINI, MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOUMIN BAHDON WAS DESIGNATED ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST, HE SUMMONED THE CHARGE FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF THE FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN AND THE DIRE
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DAWA - HARAR - DJIJIGA AREA, AND THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF A SOMALI VICTORY ON DJIBOUTI. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MINISTER BAHDON IS ONE OF THE MOST PRO-SOMALI OF LPAI LEADERS, THEREBY MAKING HIS SUPICIONS OF SOMALI INTENTIONS ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT.

3. REVIEWING THE VENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS IN THE OGADEN AND THE

DIRE DAWA AREA, MINISTER BAHDON NOTED THAT TESNIONS BETWEEN ISSAS RESIDING IN THE BATTLE ZONE AND THEIR SOMALI "LIBERATORS" WERE BECOMING VERY STRAINED. SOMALI INSISTENCE THAT LIERATED TOWNS BE EVACUATED AND THAT YOUNG ISSAS BE SENT INTO THE OGADEN TO FIGHT IN AREAS OTHER THAN THEIR ETHNIC HOMELAND HAD ALREADY CAUSED NUMBEROUS DISERTIONS. ACCORDING TO BAHDON, SOME LOCAL ISSA LEADERS HAD RESISTED AND BEEN EXECUTED BY SOMALI TROOPS. THE DJIBOUTI MINISTER CLAIMED TAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH "MORAL LEADERSHIP" EXERTED BY DJIBOUTI LEADERS THAT SERIOUS CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN SOMALI TROOPS AND ISSAS IN THE WAR ZONE HAD BEEN AVOIDED. BAHDON WAS CONCERNED THAT THE STUDIOUS NETURALITY WHICH THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED BBLWEEN THE TWO MAIN CONTENDERS IN THE OGADEN WILL SOMEHOW BE COMPROMISED BY ITS SYMTHY FOR THE NEW PLIGHT OF THE ISSAS.

4. THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI IS THE THREAT TO THE TRADITIONAL MIGRATORY LIVESTOCK TRAINS FROM THE MAOUNTAINS OF THE DIRE DAWA REGION TO DJIBOUTI WHICH PASS THROUGH THE TOWNS OF AYSHA AND DUENELE ON THE DJIBOUTI - ADDIS RAILLINE. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IDRIS FARAH ABANE, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING, DESCRIBED HOW THE INTERNAL CATTLE AND LIVESTOCK MARKETS IN THE TOWNS OF DIKHIL, ALI-SABAIEH AND IN THE INDIGENOUS TOWNSHIPS OF DJIBOUTI ABSORBED APPROXIMATELY 400 HEAD OF CDZTTLWTRA SHEEP AND GOATS PER DAY. LOSS OF THESE RESOURCES, ACCORDING TO BOTH MINISTERS, WOULD PLACE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION IN WHICH IT WOULD BE UNFNBLE TOR ESIST SOMALI GOVERNMENT PRESSURE.

5. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION, MINISTER BAHDON HINTED AT POSSIBLE NEED PROVIDE ARMS TO ETHNIC BROTHERS. CHARGE QUICKLY ALLEVIATED MINISTER OF ANY NOTIONS THAT THE U.S. WOULD WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROVIDING ARMS TO SUPPORT ISSA PARTAICULARISM.

6. CHARGE TOLD MINISTERS THAT THEIR CONCERNS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO USG, THAT THE US HAS ALREADY TAKEN CLEAR STEPS TO SUPPORT DJIBOUTI SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT IF NECESSARY THE USG WOULD EXAMINE POSSIBILITY DISCUSSION OF BORDER TRADE THROUGH TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY SOMALIA IF HARDSHIP TO LOCAL POPULATION WERE TO LEAD TO FAMINE SITUATION. CLARKE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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